



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Apr 2008 — No: 787

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am  
 CLUB Natter Channel: 144.215 MHz Daily 7:30pm  
 Slow Morse 144.100 MHz Wednesday 8pm  
 CLUB Internet WEB Site:  
<http://www.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY  
 9 Aultone Way  
 SUTTON  
 Surrey SM1 3LD  
 (020) 8644 7589  
 E-Mail: [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk)

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

**Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT**

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**"A" MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 2008 68<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**"B" MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2008 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"**

Chairman & Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
Vice-Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator (Co-Opted)	G8IYS John Simkins	020-8657 0454
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8687 0811
Technical Topics	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall	01892 668191
	2E0UYP Peter Sutton	07974 296045

## Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the April 2008 Newsletter which I am writing late again (!!). It's already Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April but it has been a busy month work wise and also went up to York for my training course with Great Rail Journeys – hence why I was not at the Sale last month. Once again we are indebted to Pat G4FDN who has compiled another bumper lot of input for this newsletter and also Ted G3EUE for his contributions.

### This month's meetings:

Another year has gone by quickly and here we are at the 2008 AGM to be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. We hope we get a good turnout at Trinity School, as this is a barometer of the health of the club and endorsement of the work the committee does. We also have a vacancy on the committee to be filled so please give it a serious thought, we are a friendly crowd.

The other meeting this month is the regular "Fix-It" and "Move-It On" Meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at Trinity School. More about these below but firstly:

### Trinity School Location Details:

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?near=cr9+7at&q=maps&f=p&btnG=Search+Maps&rl=1>

## NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Apr 2008 68<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Formal notice of this ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was given in the last newsletter. This will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Trinity School 7.30 for 7.45pm. Enclosed are the minutes of the last AGM (Accounts will be available on the night) to be brought along on the night, as they have to be accepted.

At the end of this newsletter are the AGENDA and also a nomination form for proposing members for the 2008/09 committee. The acceptance of the nominee must be obtained and the form must be in the hands of the committee prior to the Chairman opening the meeting.

The committee consists of the Secretary (to be separately nominated) and seven members. The names of nominees will be displayed on the blackboard before the meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer will be selected from the seven elected members.

THIS PROBABLY IS, OR SHOULD BE, THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE YEAR, so please make an effort to attend even if you are not normally able to get along to other club meetings. This is your opportunity to elect your committee so please use the nomination slip at the end of this Newsletter for the person you would like to put forward. The retiring committee are all willing to stand again

At the AGM you will also be able to find out how the club has been operating during the past year, scrutinise the accounts, and to express your thoughts on Meetings, Contests, Projects, Outings etc, which does help the committee to plan ahead (Also see Chairman's blog).

As previously mentioned we do have a vacancy on the committee as Peter 2E0UYP has decided not to stand for the 2008/09 committee. We thank him for all his contributions and service to the Club. Please seriously consider standing, you will be most welcomed. A nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## NEXT "B" MTG: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Apr 2008: 7.45pm FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at Trinity School is the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item or anything else that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - rigs, PCs, whatever! The collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

## LAST "A" MTG Monday 17th Mar 2008: 7.45pm Spring Surplus Equipment Sale

I was not able to attend this meeting as being in York but, as reported by Pat G4FDN in his blog, this later than normal meeting was quite well attended including some members of CATS who all had an enjoyable evening.

For the sale our auctioneer Gareth G4XAT, who along with Maurice G4DDY, ensured the Sale went smoothly and entertainingly. There was lots of equipment to be had as Pat G4FDN testifies in his blog, with some competitive bidding for some items.

We also thank Maurice G4DDY for his "behind the scene" work in collecting the bits and pieces which form part of the items for sale for Club funds – it makes quite an impact on the Club finances and helps towards keeping the subs low – more about that no doubt at the AGM. So thanks for the excellent evening go to the Auctioneer pairing of Gareth G4XAT and Maurice G4DDY. Thanks also to Peter G3ZPB and John G8IYS for keeping the accounts in order.

## The CHAIRMAN'S BLOG - Apr 2008



I hope everyone had a pleasant Easter. The family break we normally have at this time of the year was complicated by the differences in term dates between my wife's and son's respective schools.

My wife's school in Purley had their end of term break coinciding with Easter but my son's school in Wimbledon doesn't start theirs until the 7<sup>th</sup> April, in order to keep the length of the spring and summer terms approximately the same. The earliness of Easter also meant that St Patrick's Day was officially cancelled in England & Wales, and in Ireland it was transferred to the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Apparently, such an early Easter only happens about every hundred years or so.

Club wise we were caught out on the first Monday for the 'A' meeting which clashed with a major parent's evening at Trinity School. Luckily this was spotted by Gareth G4XAT just in time for us to re-arrange, but we were then caught out again with the 'B' meeting which was advertised in the newsletter for the 24<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Monday. Fortunately there were 5 Mondays in March so we were able to hold it a week later on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The Surplus Equipment Sale was quite well attended, with several people from CATS there also, but I don't think we have any photographs of the evening as Ray G4FFY was away on a training course. Gareth G4XAT and Maurice G4DDY did their usual fine effort as the auctioneers and Peter G3ZPB and John G8IYS very efficiently managed the

accounting and taking and paying of monies. There was quite a lot of equipment on offer with quite a bit of competition in the bidding at times. I picked up several useful items including a Black Star 600MHz frequency counter with external 10MHz input:



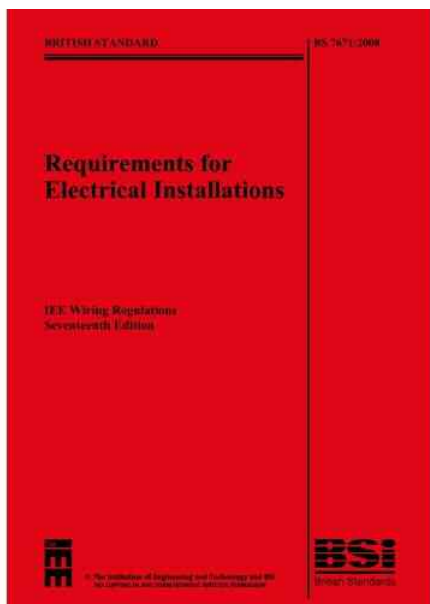
A 40uH rollercoaster inductor:



And a 4-gang variable capacitor:



**Matters Electrical:** About every 10 years or so we get a major revision in the IEE Wiring Regulations, also now known as BS7671, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition was published in January this year and comes into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.



We were lucky to have a presentation a couple of years ago from Peter G3ZPB on the then current wiring regulations and the impact of the new Part P Building Regulations which meant that much domestic electrical work now had to be notified in advance to one's local authority building control officer, unless carried out by a Part P registered contractor.

Summarised the major changes in the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition are: There are added requirements to protect against voltage disturbances and implement measures against electromagnetic influences. There are also added requirements for safety services, such as emergency escape lighting, and fire protection applications.

There is now a requirement that an assessment shall be made for each circuit of any need for continuity of service considered necessary during the intended life of the installation.

There is a new concept of protection. The terms protection against direct contact becomes basic protection, and protection against indirect contact becomes fault protection. Socket-outlets up to 20A for use by ordinary persons require 30mA RCD protection and socket-outlets up to 32A for mobile equipment for use outdoors require 30mA RCD protection, but certain exceptions are permitted.

There are new additional requirements for the connection of low voltage generators in Chapter 55 (Section 551).

Section 559 on luminaries and lighting installations is a new series of regulations concerning lighting installations. It also includes highway power supplies and street furniture, previously in Part 6.

There are now requirements for emergency escape lighting and fire protection applications, and there are also changes to inspection and testing. In addition, changes have been made to the requirements for insulation resistance - when testing SELV and PELV circuits at 250 V, the minimum insulation resistance is raised to 0.5 MΩ; for systems up to

and including 500 V, (including FELV), the minimum insulation resistance is raised to 1.0 MΩ.

The anomaly of socket outlets being barred in bathrooms has been removed (they were allowed in bedrooms that contained a shower, etc). Sockets are now allowed as long as they are at least 3m horizontally from the bath or shower. The wiring regulations do not specifically address amateur radio stations unlike the American National Electrical Code which does, which is unfortunate as I think we are overdue for some formal standards to measure up to in the UK.

It is also probably a good time to re-assess how well portable and field operation measures up to current best practice and safety especially in the choice of supply voltages and use of cabling and sockets. How many people are still using 230V supplies with domestic 13A plugs and sockets with their portable kit instead of reduced low voltage supplies with BS EN 60309-2 plugs and sockets?

**Bread boarding:** when I'm experimenting I often use breadboards, both the electronic kind but also the wooden kind when I want to temporarily mount larger components on. I do have a shed well stocked with off-cuts of wood but a few months ago I came across in Lidl sets of six individual sized breadboards (or Frühstückbrettchen auf deutsch) for only £1.99. They have nice smooth surfaces with rounded corners so look far superior to the average off-cut.



**G3FP:** As most will remember Bern Arnold sadly passed away last year. His daughter Wendy has kindly passed on to the club Bern's log books for preservation. Also from Bern's shack wall she retrieved an old Irish QSL card from 1947 as she was aware of the project I'm involved with. It was from GI5AJ in Bangor, Co Down:



Wendy also passed on a photo Bern had received from an American amateur, W1KJG in July 1939:



Quite an impressive array of equipment for the period. The writing on the back doesn't indicate who the YL is.

**CW:** there should be mention elsewhere of Charles MOBIN's efforts in getting a CW net going. I've participated but it was hard work the first night but worth it. There must be several other people like me who want to improve their skill at CW so if you are one of them why not give the net a try? On this subject I came across a very interesting book that is available for download off the internet. It is called "The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy" by N0HFF.

#### The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy

A Manual For Learning, Using, Mastering And Enjoying  
The International Morse Code As A Means Of Communication

William G. Pierpont N0HFF  
"What Hath God Wrought!"

"For those who are interested in telegraphy, for those who would like to learn it, for those who love it, and for those who want to improve their skills in it."



N0HFF

The art and skill of telegraphy is unique. The psychologists who have seriously studied those who have developed this skill have been fascinated and challenged to try to understand it. Isn't the very idea of being able to communicate your thoughts to another by means of intermittent tones something intriguing in itself?

Third Revised Edition  
Last edit - April 20, 2002  
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The book can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm> I found it very informative and useful. That's it for this month - hopefully see you all at the AGM. Please do your best to attend and contribute.

Pat G4FDN

28<sup>th</sup> Mar 08

## THE CALENDAR SECTION

### SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Sutton & Cheam RS - 'Natter Night' Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton -8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Crystal Palace: Short Talks on Test Equipment @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill from 7:30pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meet monthly on 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday) <a href="http://members.aol.com/rfcburns">http://members.aol.com/rfcburns</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	CATS: Test and Swap Evening - Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday's. Contact Andy Jackson G8JAC on 020-8651 2727 <a href="mailto:g8jac@btinternet.com">g8jac@btinternet.com</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	W&DARS - Construction of Antenna for VHF Dfing @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ - 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/">http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Bromley & District - AGM - Meetings normally on 3rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes - 7.30 for 8. Paul M3PGW <a href="mailto:bdars@greenwand.net">bdars@greenwand.net</a> or <a href="http://www.bdars.org.uk">www.bdars.org.uk</a>
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Reigate Amateur Transmitting Society - Main meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday's at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill 7.30pm. <a href="http://www.qsl.net/rats">www.qsl.net/rats</a> or <a href="mailto:rats@qsl.net">rats@qsl.net</a>
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Sutton & Cheam RS - Loops and other Small Antennas with Mike Underhill G3LHZ. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton - 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Dorking & District Radio Society - they normally meet on 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking - opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Walter Blanchard, G3JKV on 01306 884359 <a href="mailto:w3@q3jkv.co.uk">wb@q3jkv.co.uk</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	W&DARS - Surplus Equipment Sale @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ - 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/">http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/</a>
30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mitcham & District ARS - Unfortunately this club has decided to disband. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Project Construction Evening</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Construction Contest</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Summer BBQ at G4CCY/G4DDY</b>

SRCC Meetings indicated in BOLD at venue of Trinity School

### Radio Calendar, etc:

6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Spring West London Radio &amp; Electronics Show</b> at Kempton Park - <a href="http://www.radiofairs.co.uk">www.radiofairs.co.uk</a> - Top Ham Competition - Opens 10am - £4 <b>SRCC will be having a stand</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Dunstable Downs Rally</b> Stockwood Park, Luton, Beds. Opens 9am - £2 <a href="http://www.ddrcbootsale.org/">http://www.ddrcbootsale.org/</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Newbury Radio Rally &amp; Boot Sale</b> - Newbury Showground, next to Junction 13 of M4. Opens 9am - £2 - <a href="http://www.nadars.org.uk">www.nadars.org.uk</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>McMichael Rally &amp; Boot sale.</b> Reading Rugby Football Club Holme Park Farm Lane Sonning lane Sonning on Thames Reading, RG4 6ST

## Web-Site of the Month

From Charles M0BIN this month take a look at:

VLF Up converter:

<http://www.radiosky.com/upconv.html>

VLF:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Very\\_low\\_frequency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Very_low_frequency)

K3 FAQ:

<http://www.elecraft.com/K3/K3FAQ.htm>

40 - 10 meters portable RESONANT dipole:

[http://www.ad5x.com/images/Articles/Dipole\\_RevA.pdf](http://www.ad5x.com/images/Articles/Dipole_RevA.pdf)

Lots of Good Stuff here:

<http://hfradio.org/prefix/>

Amateur radio Prefixes:

<http://ac6v.com/prefixes.htm>

Emtech ZM-2 Antenna Tuner Kit:

<http://www.io.com/~n5fc/zm2.htm>

Learning Morse Code:

<http://www.kent-engineers.com/map.htm>

Morse Practice Oscillator Kit:

<http://www.kent-engineers.com/practiceosckit.htm>

Building the G3TXQ Broad Band Hex Beam:

<http://www.leoshoemaker.com/hexbeambyk4kio/general.html>

Sunspot Cycle 24 & IMD:

<http://www.eham.net/articles/18767>

The changing market for amateur rigs:

[http://www.adat.ch/index\\_e.html](http://www.adat.ch/index_e.html)

Getting started on data modes with the Elecraft K2:

<http://www.g4ilo.com/k2psk31.html>

W1AW Code Practice Files:

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html>

Roofing Filters:

[http://www.elecraft.com/K3/Roofing\\_Filters.htm](http://www.elecraft.com/K3/Roofing_Filters.htm)

## SLOW MORSE ON 144.100 MHz

A slow Morse evening started on Wednesday 12th March and will continue on each Wednesday evening at 8.00 pm on 144.100 MHz +/-

At the time of writing we have had two good sessions, each lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Operators on air so far have been G3BFP, G3RJW, G4FDN, G8TB and M0BIN.

Please come on air and support this new club venture.

The idea is to encourage more SRCC members to take up the key and all capabilities are welcome. Experienced operators will match your speed so please join in no matter what level of experience you have attained.

If you think that you need to practice before going on air you will find the Morse programme by G4FON to be very helpful.

We hope to hear your call being tapped out in the near future on a Wednesday evening.

Charles M0BIN

20<sup>th</sup> Mar 2008

## Club Dinner - Sat 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Don't forget this coming Saturday is our annual Club Dinner being held as usual at Park Place Beefeater, Mitcham. To reserve your place at this popular event, please send a £5 deposit per person to Ray G4FFY (cheques payable to Ray Howells please). We will be as usual in a private room and served the party menu - choices from which will be made on the night. Looks like there will be 26 of us.

## Members Contributions

### Ted Jones G3EUE: Book Review - The Eavesdroppers by Jack Bleakley.

"The latest issue of the news letter spurred me to dig out a copy of "The Eavesdroppers" by Jack Bleakley which I heard about when I was in Tasmania several years ago. This 260 page paperback, published in 1991 by the Australian Government Publishing Service, covers the work of the RAAF component of the Allied signals intelligence organisations. Like the wireless intercept work at Bletchley Park nothing was allowed to be published for many years and it is only since 1984 that the author has been able to prepare the book through the co-operation and help of the Australian Defence Signals Directorate.

Jack Bleakley was a former serving member of an Australian (RAAF) Signal unit. His book briefly describes the history of "intelligence", the initial work to set up a surveillance in northern Australia and the basis of Japanese W/T communication and codes. Intercept operators in the Pacific war were faced with two enormous problems - the complexities of the comparatively unknown Japanese language and secondly, the fact that the Japanese had devised their own form of Morse code (known as the KANA code) for their naval and military operational messages. The KANA signals were based on the 46 basic phonetic sounds (plus 25 other sound 'changes' of the Japanese language, using their KATA KANA syllabary. It was chosen because it is the syllabary used to write and pronounce traditional Japanese and foreign words, including place names, borrowed from the 'western' world. Personally I had enough trouble learning the standard 26 letter alphabet of the International code. The thought of highly competent CW operators having not only to 'forget' normal Morse but master the 71 KANA symbols in its place really made my eyes water!

The throwaway line by Bleakley that traffic was frequently sent at 40/50 wpm wouldn't help.

The rest of the book covers the war in great detail with numerous maps and black & white photographs. It is a fascinating read and in my opinion would be well worth the effort if one could trace a copy. The cover price was \$A12.95 (the equivalent of about £6). The publication references are:

Commonwealth Information Services,  
Australian Government Publishing Service, GPO Box 84,  
Canberra. ACT 2601.  
National Library of Australia - ISBN 0 644 22303 0.

Ted G3EUE

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008"

On the following page is an example of the Katakana code

The Katakana Chart: A. - KANA C. PHONETIC  
B. - MORSE D. SINGLEDOT

COLUMN	A	I	U	E	O
LINE					
SINGLE VOWEL	ア A (R)	イ I (A)	ウ U	エ E (Y)	オ O (F)
K	カ KA (L)	キ KI (T)	ク KU (V)	ケ KE (O)	コ KO (←)
S	サ SA (Z)	シ SHI (V)	ス SU (O)	セ SE (←)	ソ SO (O)
T	タ TA (V)	チ CHI (F)	ツ TSU (P)	テ TE (V)	ト TO (E)
N	ナ NA (R)	ニ NI (C)	ヌ NU (H)	ネ NE (O)	ノ NO (C)
H	ハ HA (B)	ヒ HI (Z)	フ FU (Z)	ヘ HE (E)	ホ HO (C)
M	マ MA (X)	ミ MI (A)	ム MU (T)	メ ME (Z)	モ MO (V)
Y	ヤ YA (V)		ユ YU (R)		ヨ YO (M)
R	ラ RA (S)	リ RI (O)	ル RU (L)	レ RE (O)	ロ RO (A)
W	ワ WA (R)		ン N (←)		ヲ WO (F)

Part of the kata kana morse code used by the Japanese military. This chart was compiled by the author.

### Ted Jones G3EUE: Semi-Automatic or "Bug" Keys

"By 1900, telegraph operators were handling tremendous amounts of traffic and there was a need for a way to send code more rapidly than was possible with a conventional hand key. Horace Martin's 1902 invention of the Semi-Automatic key dramatically increased the message handling capacity of an operator by allowing dots to be made automatically. When his very broadly written Vibroplex patent ran out in the 1920s many other manufacturers began making Bugs. His first key was the "Autoplex" (1902). It was not very convenient because it required batteries to power its mechanism but, nevertheless, it was the first of a long line of semi-automatic keys. Following the design of the Metal Autoplex in 1904 Martin then produced the Vibroplex "Original" which made dots automatically with a totally mechanical vibrating mechanism. Named "The Original" it has remained virtually unchanged to the present day.

Prior to the invention of the semi-automatic key which solved the problem of producing multiple dots, normal straight keys were also plagued with mechanical problems which were not solved until Jesse Bunnell, a telegraph equipment manufacturer, designed an all-steel lever key in 1881. It is said that the sheer volume of high-speed code traffic using an up and down wrist movement caused many operators to complain of severe wrist pains known variously as "Telegrapher's Paralysis", or "Glass Arm". Bunnell then designed a key in 1888 where the sending movement was side-to-side which was said to virtually eliminate the paralysis. This information was taken from Tom Perera's,

W1TP, Telegraph Collectors Guide, the second edition of which was published in 1999. For anyone interested in collecting Morse keys it is well worth having on the bookshelf.

It is always interesting to come across an opposing point of view. The fourth edition of T.E.Herbert's reference book "Telegraphy" published in 1920 (I have a copy of the reprint issued in 1921) has the following comments to make about the Vibroplex key:-

" This device is in extensive use in America to prevent telegraphists' cramp by relieving the operator of the work of forming separate dots. It consists of a lever which is moved to the right to send dots and to the left for dashes. It carries a weighted spring which, when the movement is to the right, is thrown into vibration, thus making and breaking a contact at a pre-determined rate depending upon the position of the timing weight. The dashes are formed by the operator by movements of the lever to the left. This device necessitates the formation of the signals sent out on a local sounder so that the sender may only hold the key over to the right whilst the required number of dots is formed by the automatic vibration of the weighted spring. The sender does not feel any movement of the lever whilst it is held to the dot side.

" It is contended that the device permits faster sending with less fatigue to the operator and that the strain on the receiving operator may be reduced by taking the message on a typewriter. In this way it is claimed that higher output is secured and the possibility of telegraphists' cramp is reduced. Whether these claims can, any or all of them, be substantiated in practice remains to be determined, since the experiments in progress are not yet conclusive. It is, however, true to say that when the device was tried some 20 years ago (1900) it was, at that time, condemned by most practical telegraphists in this country (U.K.)

" Telegraphists' cramp is neither very rare nor is it extensive and there is reason to think that in many cases where it does occur the prime cause lies in bad teaching and the consequent development of unnatural jerky methods of sending. The replacement by properly adjusted double current keys for single current type keys on all busy circuits should tend to reduce the risk of cramp even where the art of rhymical sending has either never been acquired or has been impaired due to some obscure physical condition of the operator. "

Perera identifies some 21 versions of the Vibroplex. I believe the key made in the largest numbers was the military version of the Vibroplex No.6 'Lightning' produced from 1941 to 1945 and marked as the J-36. In addition to the Vibroplex Company the military key was also made by the Lionel Electric Company whilst the Bunnell firm made their own version of the J-36. It is said that after the War these keys were on the surplus market by the barrelful for 25 cents each or five for a dollar! The collectors' price in 1999 was listed at \$150.

For the keen collector there are an awful lot of Morse keys out there. Over the years more than 50 American companies produced their own versions of 'Bug' keys alone.

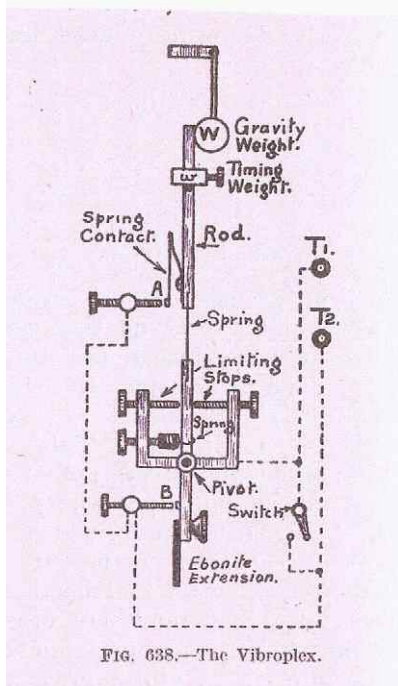
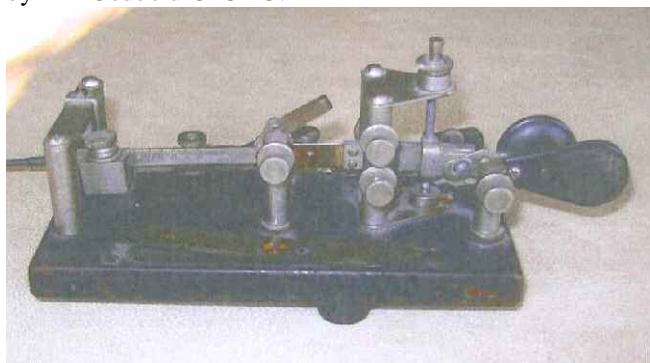
Ted G3EUE

5<sup>th</sup> Mar 2008"

Ref: 'Telegraphy' by T.E.Herbert. 1920

Perera's Telegraph Collector's Guide. Tom Perera W1TP. 1999.

Ted has also sent the following photograph that he had taken of the wartime version of the Vibroplex No.6 "Lightning". It is marked Signal Corps U.S Army Key type J-36, made in 1942 by the Lionel Corpn. The key is owned by Phil Godbold G4UDU.



Ted mentions that he spent a little time trying to master it with scant success and cannot see himself ever using it on the air. Apparently he took long enough to cope with an el-bug! He wonders whether any member of the Club actually uses one?

Since Ted had prepared this piece, he noted that copies of Perera's reference book about Morse Keys are now available from the RSGB. It contains

more than 50 pages of photographs and text about each key with a further 40 pages of indices, etc. invaluable for a key collector.

### VHF NFD 2008

This year's event will be held over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and the next meeting of the Surrey Radio Contest Group is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at John's G8IYS QTH from 8pm. Please advise John of your intention to attend to ensure sufficient sandwiches! Thanks.



### RSGB Top Ham Competition at Kempton Rally 6 April 2008

After the great success of the first **Top Ham** Competition at last year's spring Kempton Rally, Radio Fairs are pleased to announce the next RSGB **Top Ham** Competition to be held at the Kempton Radio and Electronics Fair on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The Competition is sponsored by the RSGB, Kenwood Electronics, Martin Lynch and Radio Fairs.

The format remains the same, everybody at the Rally will get chance to enter the competition, free of charge; the initial round will be relatively simple multiple choice questions on Amateur Radio and electronics. The first 100 entries handed in will all receive a commemorative prize. Once marked, the 10% with the highest score will be entered for a valuable prize draw. If you wish, you can go on to enter the **Top Ham** round and the six people with the highest scores on the initial paper will be asked questions, in a TV style quiz, on a stage in the exhibition hall. The final winner will be presented with the RSGB Top Ham Trophy and receive an HF transceiver from Kenwood, the runner up will also receive a prize of a radio.

The Top Ham round will be televised around the exhibition, via local TV repeaters and onto the Internet. For more details see the Radio Fairs' website [www.radiofairs.co.uk](http://www.radiofairs.co.uk).

### SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, apologies if I have missed anything. For our main meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup> it is the AGM so please make every effort to attend and get your voice and views heard on how the Club should move forward in these times when it is getting harder to attract new blood. A nomination slip is attached if you would like to put yourself forward to work on the committee.

The "B" meeting is on April 21<sup>st</sup> and prior to that there is the meeting of VHF NFD Group at John's G8IYS on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Don't forget we now start at 7:45pm at Trinity School.

The **Kempton Rally is this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April** – it will be good to see you all there – [www.radiofairs.co.uk](http://www.radiofairs.co.uk) for more details including the new TopHam contest.

And finally it is the Club Dinner on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April – it's a good night out at Park Place, Mitcham.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 2008



Ray G4FFY



Roger G4WAY



Gareth G4XAT



Maurice G4DDY



Peter 2E0UYP



Graham G3RJW



Robert M1MRS



Pat G4FDN

Current 2007/2008 SRCC Committee



**AGENDA FOR THE 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE SRCC ON 7th APRIL 2008**



1. CHAIRMAN declares nominations closed and meeting open.
2. MINUTES of previous AGM
3. CHAIRMAN's report
4. TREASURERS report. Accounts for 2007/2008
5. APPOINTMENT of Election Scrutineers (if necessary)
6. APPOINTMENT of Hon. Secretary
7. ELECTION of Committee. 7 posts
8. ELECTION of (from Committee)
  - (a) Treasurer,
  - (b) Chairman
  - (c) Vice Chairman
9. APPOINTMENT OF Accounts Independent Examiners  
- Vote of thanks to previous year's
10. PRESENTATION of AWARDS
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING CLOSED.

**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2008 - 2009** (Please return to Ray Howells G4FFY or before AGM start)

I ..... wish to nominate .....

For the position of **Secretary / Member** on the SRCC committee 2008 - 2009

If elected I agree to stand. Signed: ..... Date .....

(You may wish to photocopy this form rather than spoil the Newsletter)